

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

302 WEST WASHINGTON STREET ROOM E120
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Charles T. "Tom" Applegate, Director

Mr. Adam Horst
Director
State Budget Agency
Statehouse
Room 212
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: FY14/FY15 Biennium Budget Request for the Department of Veterans' Affairs

Dear Director Horst:

Agency Programs & Functions:

The mission of the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) is rooted in the statutory requirement of assisting veterans and service personnel, along with their dependents and survivors, to obtain any benefit or advantage due to them under the laws of the United States and the State of Indiana.

The Department is charged with the responsibility of training, certifying and supervising ninety-two County Veterans' Service Officers. The IDVA has a contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs to administer the State Approving Agency's functions for all public institutions of higher learning, non-college degree programs, schools, on the job training and apprenticeship programs. The IDVA is responsible for the operations of the Indiana Veterans' Memorial Cemetery located in Madison, Indiana and the Indiana Veterans' Home in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Numbers and Profile of the Population Served:

The IDVA serves all veterans and service personnel, along with their dependents and survivors, within Indiana. The veteran population in Indiana is approximately 483,000. The veterans' dependent and survivor population is estimated at 900,000. The IDVA directs the efforts of the County Veterans' Service Officers and provides assistance and/or services to all veterans' organizations, veterans' centers, Indiana Workforce Development's Veteran Representative Staff and Federal Veterans' Affairs Offices and Medical Centers.

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Programs/functions reduced or eliminated:

None

Reallocation of personal service funding in the current biennium:

The IDVA did not reallocate personal services funding.

Goals for the 2014-2015 Biennium:

- Maintain full operations of the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery and assist in the restoration of the Indiana Veterans' Home Cemetery.
- Continue to upgrade the training and supervision of the 92 County Veterans' Service Officers and their offices. Research teleconferencing application for CVSO meetings.
- Continue support of veterans' service organizations, particularly their Service Officers and their staff.
- Increase outreach programs to veterans and service members, including their dependents and survivors.
- Increase the DVA's support of the mission of the Indiana Veterans' Home. The Veterans' Affairs Commission now meets biannually on site at the Veterans' Home.
- The mission of the State Approving Agency has been changed to: Compliance survey of educational and training programs.
- Increase the number of educational and training programs approved for GI Bill eligible veterans, dependents and survivors.
- Continue to implement the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill (Chapter 33) and the training of staff responsible for the certification of educational and training programs.

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- Increase approvals of veteran license plates, remission of fees to Children of Disabled Veterans and approval of veteran tax deductions.
- Continue to provide the Commission on Higher Education with needed program information.
- Continue the approval process of veterans' applications for reduced fees for hunting and fishing licenses for disabled veterans.
- Process applications for delayed high school diplomas for those veterans that left high school to enter either World War I or II.

Summary of new or expanded Service:

The DVA now provides a Governor's Memorial Certificate to the survivor of the honorably discharged veteran.

The DVA provides gubernatorial approval for the posts of veterans' organizations to display their flag at half-staff for the funeral of a member of the post.

Additionally, the department participates in the State Honor Services for Hoosier veterans killed in action.

The IDVA now provides outreach through the Indiana Women Veterans Coordinators and the Women's Veterans Spring Conference to the over 33,000 women veterans residing in Indiana.

The State Approving Agency has established a partnership with the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to support the mission of the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program.